

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please insert the following as the first paragraph of the specification: "This application is a national stage application filed under 35 U.S.C. 371 based on International Application No. PCT/JP03/01958 filed Oct. 9, 2003."

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The subject matter of the independent claims could either not be found or was not suggested in the prior art of record. The subject matter of independent claims 1 and 4 not found was seal projections that project from surfaces of cutter blades that partially cut off both ends of a powdery medicine-filled capsule when the capsule moves forward to a loading position wherein the distance between the seal projections is shorter than the length of the capsule after cutting off both ends by the cutter blades so that both ends are pressed by both seal projections in combination with the other elements of the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KAMI A. BOSWORTH whose telephone number is (571)270-5414. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Simons can be reached on (571)272-4965. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kami A Bosworth/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3767  
/Kevin C. Simons/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3767

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